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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/576,989	05/23/2000	Charles M. Rice III	6029-4356	1745

21888 7590 06/30/2003

THOMPSON COBURN, LLP
ONE US BANK PLAZA
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ST LOUIS, MO 63101

EXAMINER

WORTMAN, DONNA C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1648

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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23

DATE MAILED:


Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Donna C. Wortman, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1648

The proposed amendment after final submitted on April 2, 2003, as Paper No. 17, which, *inter alia*, presented a new claim originally numbered as claim 76 was not entered; however, in accordance with Rule 126, newly presented "claim 76" was renumbered as claim 86, since the application as originally filed included claims numbered through claim 85.

The amendment after final presented on May 15, 2003, as Paper No. 21 has been entered. In Paper No. 21, claims 1 and 12 were amended, claims 10, 11, 18-24, 41-44 and 63-68 were canceled, and a new claim, identical to the claim 76 presented in Paper No. 17 and also numbered as "claim 76" was added. In accordance with Rule 126, which provides that claims be numbered sequentially whether entered or not, the claim originally numbered as claim 76 in Paper No. 21 has been renumbered as claim 87.



Art Unit: 1648

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel Kasten on June 17, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 15, line 1, deleted "11" and inserted --1--.

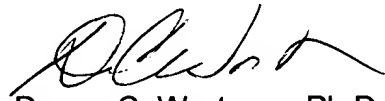
As a result of the entry of the after final amendment and the Examiner's Amendment authorized by Daniel Kasten, all claims are presently in condition for allowance.

A reference relevant to the examination of this application may soon become available. *Ex parte* prosecution is SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS from the date of this letter. Upon expiration of the period of suspension, applicant should make an inquiry as to the status of the application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donna C. Wortman, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 703-308-1032. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel can be reached on 703-308-4027. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.



Donna C. Wortman, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1648

dcw
June 27, 2003